

## John Randolph to Andrew Jackson, June 28, 1830, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN RANDOLPH TO JACKSON.

The *Concord* At Sea, June 28, 1830.

*Sir*, The *Concord* arrived in Hampton Roads on Tuesday last about Sunset. She was found to require caulking; a leak having found it's way to her Magazine, which rendered it necessary to take out her powder. There were other causes of unavoidable delay. Too much praise cannot be given to Capt. Perry and the officers under his command for the activity with which they have prepared the Ship for sailing. We should have put to sea last even'g, but that we had to wait for Surgeon Heerman, who delayed coming on board until too late. I myself repaired on board in the morning, and have made good my pledge "that the ship should not wait one hour for me". Many persons, conversant in these matters, pronounced that we could not possibly get ready to sail before the end of this week or the beginning of the next—but all difficulties vanished before the energy of Capt Perry.

The *Concord* is a fine ship and I have but one fault to find with my situation—it is, that Capt. Perry's politeness has induced him to give up his own state Room and dressing Room to me, and I fear to straiten his own quarters. I have every accomodation that the most fastidious person could possibly desire. Nothing can surpass Captain Perry's polite and kind attentions to myself and Mr Clay.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> So much has been said about Randolph's avarice with respect to this appointment that it is pleasant to insert this letter, in which he appears reasonable and ordinarily human. The commander of the *Concord* was Matthew Calbraith Perry.

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In consequence of the defect of appropriation I have had to buy bil[l]s at 7 perCent advance. Shall I be deemed unreasonable in asking, that, when the appropriation shall have been made, credit shall be given me for it upon our Bankers in Europe? Thus placing the outfit and Salary on the same foot. This will perhaps be not more than a fair equivalent for seven months delay, and the inconvenience to which I am exposed in drawing upon my own funds. If however you shall deem that there is the slightest impropriety in this request I shall cheerfully consent to lose the interest and the advance also upon the exchange. For I would not have my pecuniary transactions with the Govt tarnished with the slightest indelicacy for any imaginable consideration. No person can comprehend or appreciate this feeling more readily than yourself.

With the highest respect I have the honour to be Sir

P. S. I left my residence to take upon me the duties of my Mission on Wednesday the 9th of June 1830, Mr Clay departed the day before.